

Governor's Family Violence Council Meeting
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
Wednesday, July 20, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Jeanne Yeager, Chair
Dorothy Lennig, Esq., Vice-Chair
Kunle Adeyemo
Lillian Agbeyegbe
Reverend Lawrence Crabtree
Debbie Feinstein, Esq.
Pamela Manning
Marcia Morris for Secretary Lourdes Padilla
Jennifer Pollitt-Hill
Stacey Rice, Esq.
Laure Ruth, Esq.
David Shultie
Senator Mary Beth Carozza
Neshanna Turner
Dave Wolinski for Secretary Robert Green

Guests:

Stephanie Erdice, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Melanie Shapiro, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Staff:

Rebecca Allyn, Heather Amador

I. Welcome & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:01 a.m. Ms. Allyn conducted a roll call and guests introduced themselves.

II. Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Updates

Ms. Allyn informed members that the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (the Office) has hired Gary Richardson as the Chief of Grants. The Office is currently accepting grant applications for the Child Sex Trafficking Screening and Services Act Regional Navigator Program and the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program. Applications are due July 29 and July 22, respectively. The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Notice of Funding Availabilities (NOFAs) will be issued later this summer. The Office will also be issuing a NOFA within the next few weeks for the Domestic Violence Centers grant. This is a new funding source for state FY 2023 and comprehensive domestic violence programs and other domestic violence centers and programs will be eligible to apply.

In June, the Office held a listening and strategic planning session to update the VAWA Implementation Plan in order to develop new priorities and identify gaps in services. The priorities were posted on the Office's [website](#) for public comments. Feedback on the plan is due to Ms. Allyn by July 29.

III. Approval of Minutes

The April 2022 Council meeting minutes were provided to members and guests. Ms. Pollitt-Hill made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Yeager seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes were approved.

IV. Workgroup Updates

a. Abusers Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders Workgroup

The workgroup will conclude at this time and meet again once probation agents are trained and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) is able to begin collecting AIP data. Members recommended requesting the data quarterly from DPSCS.

b. Abuse Intervention Program (AIP) Workgroup

The workgroup met in June to continue discussing the MOU model for certification. If the Council moves forward with this, the Council must clarify what that means and the conditions of both the domestic violence program and the AIP in order to have a working relationship. The Council would also need to address what would happen when the programs don't align philosophically. The workgroup will meet again in August or September.

Ms. Allyn will begin scheduling AIP site visits for the fall. Once the site visits are scheduled, Ms. Allyn will share the schedule with members. Council members are encouraged to assist with site visits.

V. New Workgroup Discussion

Members discussed the suggested workgroups for the upcoming year.

- *Access to Benefits for Immigrant Survivors*

Establish a workgroup to research and improve access to benefits for immigrant survivors of domestic violence by identifying:

- ❖ How do Maryland's policies and laws (benefits laws, evidentiary laws, driver's license, etc.) compare to other states and how Maryland could improve to increase access to benefits for immigrant survivors of domestic violence
- ❖ Needs and gaps and how they can be improved (benefits, compensation, language access, U visa certification, family law, judiciary training needs, law enforcement interactions, etc.)
- ❖ U visa certification process in the state by jurisdiction
- ❖ How are immigrant survivors who are foreign born accessing victim compensation (medical and counseling) and what are the barriers

- ❖ If drafting/supporting legislation is needed
- *Stalking*
During the 2022 legislative session, Maryland updated the [stalking law](#) to include misuse of telephone communication and putting a tracking device on another person without their consent. Effective 10/1/22, the new stalking law will include technology that stalkers often use to frighten victims, specifying that stalking can occur by “electronic communication” and “through the use of a device that can pinpoint or track the location of another without the person’s knowledge or consent.” The Council would continue the progress of the legislation by making recommendations on how to address repeat offenders for stalking, address lethality factors, how protective orders coincide with the criminal charges and investigations, and the nexus between stalking and homicides.
- *Survivor Advocacy Council*
Anecdotally, survivor involvement and participation is more likely to be higher when they are among their peers, and when they are not outnumbered at the table. As one human trafficking survivor said, “[Nothing about us, without us.](#)” It would be more helpful if the survivors at the table are representatives of a body of survivors, or if the survivors have an independent body through which they are better able to support the mission of the Council. The Council can form a Survivor Advisory Council, similar to the [U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking](#). A Survivor Advisory Council Workgroup would be formed to research this concept further and make recommendations to the Council. Their task would include:
 - ❖ Researching the more advanced survivor involvement in the human trafficking sector for models to adapt for domestic violence survivor involvement.
 - ❖ Research domestic violence advisory councils.
 - ❖ Provide recommendations to the Council on implementation.

Members were in favor of all workgroups and decided to prioritize the workgroups following the meeting. Ms. Allyn will share a signup list for members to rank which workgroup they would most like to participate in.

VI. Old/New Business

Ms. Pollitt-Hill shared that the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) has finished a report on a project to explore the efficacy of a statewide database to capture AIP referrals and track offenders who are engaged in an AIP. Ms. Pollitt-Hill will provide the report to Ms. Allyn to share with Council members.

Senator Carozza stated that she will be reintroducing a bill on training for custody evaluators in the 2023 legislative session.

Several members attended a recent forum held by the Maryland Judiciary’s Equal Justice Committee (EJC) on domestic violence. Those members in attendance voiced concerns regarding

incomplete information shared about AIPs during the forum. Ms. Allyn will follow up with the EJC.

Ms. Allyn shared that the Victim Information Notification Everyday Protective Order (VPO) system has been having issues recently with cases not showing up due to a new server upgrade, which resulted in a small fix being needed. The issue is continuing to be addressed by both the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and Appriss.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:02 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting ID: meet.google.com/ady-vzv-v-atb

Phone: 631-621-7821

PIN: 608 796 671#